

Application Serial No: 10/589,586
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: August 21, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 21, 2007. Claim 1 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in Figures 1 and 2. No new matter is added. Claims 2-5 are pending.

§102 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected as being anticipated by Shiyouji (JP No. 2001-162849). This rejection is traversed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of amended claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to a thermal printhead that requires, among other features, a plurality of first lead wiring portions each including a first end connected to the common wiring portion and a second end connected to a respective one of the heating resistance sections and a plurality of second lead wiring portions extending from the heating resistance sections toward the common wiring portion for connecting the heating resistance sections to a drive IC. Claim 1 also requires that the first ends of those first lead wiring portions connected to each block of the common wiring portion are spaced from each other by a smaller distance than a spacing between the second ends of those first lead wiring portions connected to each block of heating resistance sections.

Shiyouji does not disclose or teach or suggest these features. Shiyouji is directed to a thermal head that includes lead electrodes (3), a common electrode (4) and heating elements (2). As shown in Drawing 1 of Shiyouji, the ends of the lead electrodes (3) that are connected to the common electrode (4) are spaced at a distance equal to the spacing between the ends of the lead electrodes (3) connected to the heating elements (2).

Nowhere does Shiyouji disclose or suggest that the ends of the lead electrodes (3) connected to the common electrode (4) are spaced from each other by a smaller distance than a spacing between the ends of the lead electrodes (3) connected to the heating elements (2), as required by the first and second ends of the first lead wiring portions, the common wiring portion and the heating resistance sections of claim 1. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by Shiyouji and should be allowed. Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

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§103 Rejections:

Claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over Shiyouji in view of Yasuda (US Patent No. 6,612,672). This rejection is traversed. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Curtis B. Hamre (Reg. No. 29,165), at (612) 455-3802.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 22, 2008

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